

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 77**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Torres**

August 15, 2011

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 77—Relative to Suicide Prevention Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 77, as introduced, Torres. Suicide Prevention Week.

This measure would proclaim September 4 through September 10, 2011, as Suicide Prevention Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In the United States, one person completes suicide  
2 every 15.2 minutes; and

3 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the  
4 United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death among  
6 individuals who are 15 to 24, inclusive, years of age in the United  
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 4.5 million people in the United  
9 States, known as survivors of suicide, have lost a loved one to  
10 suicide; and

11 WHEREAS, Fifty and two-tenths percent of people who die by  
12 suicide use a firearm; and

13 WHEREAS, 2010 was the second year in a row that the United  
14 States military lost more troops to suicide than combat in Iraq and  
15 Afghanistan; and

1 WHEREAS, Rates of completed suicide are highest among  
2 those 80 years of age and over; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2007, 18 percent of Hispanic adolescents  
4 reported seriously considering attempting suicide in the last 12  
5 months, which is a proportion higher than reported by their  
6 non-Hispanic classmates; and

7 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illness and  
8 suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging  
9 persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further  
10 traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

11 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the American Association  
12 of Suicidology, that are dedicated to reducing the frequency of  
13 suicide attempts and death and the pain of survivors of suicide  
14 through educational programs, research programs, intervention  
15 services, and bereavement services, urge the following:

16 (a) Recognition of suicide as a national and state public health  
17 problem and the declaration of suicide prevention as a statewide  
18 priority.

19 (b) Acknowledgment that no single suicide prevention program  
20 or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.

21 (c) Encouragement of initiatives based on the goals contained  
22 in the National Strategy Prevention, which include all of the  
23 following:

24 (1) Promotion of awareness of suicide as a public health problem  
25 that is preventable.

26 (2) Development of broad-based support for suicide prevention.

27 (3) Development and implementation of strategies to reduce  
28 the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health,  
29 substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

30 (4) Development and implementation of community-based  
31 suicide prevention programs.

32 (5) Promotion of efforts to reduce access to lethal means and  
33 methods of self-harm.

34 (6) Implementation of training for the recognition of at-risk  
35 behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment.

36 (7) Development and promotion of effective clinical and  
37 professional practices.

38 (8) Increase in access to, and community linkages with, mental  
39 health and substance abuse services.

1 (9) Improvement in reporting and portrayals of suicidal behavior,  
2 mental illness, and substance abuse in the entertainment and news  
3 media.

4 (10) Promotion and support of research on suicide and suicide  
5 prevention.

6 (11) Improvement and expansion of surveillance systems for  
7 suicidal behavior; and

8 WHEREAS, A great many suicides are preventable; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
11 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby proclaims  
12 September 4 through September 10, 2011, as Suicide Prevention  
13 Week; and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit  
15 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.